

COUNTRY Eastern Germany Approved For Release 2006/04/20 : CIA-RDP82-00457R014300360009-9

TOPIC Soviet and Volkspolizei Border Guards along the Zonal Border 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 22 August 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. [redacted] personnel of the regular police in towns in Saxony-Anhalt were employed to reinforce border guard details. The measure was carried out in such a manner that usually only six or seven police remained at one precinct. (1)
2. The guard battalion in Halle with the field details in Domnitzsch and Magdeburg was committed to border guard duty in the area of Oebisfelde and Salzwedel. (2)
3. Some of the Soviet border guard troops in Thuringia were withdrawn from the restricted border area during the first days of the execution of the decree on the restricted area along the zonal border. The Soviet units committed on border guard duty were reinforced in late May and early June 1952. Some of these reinforcements came from rear areas. For example, several hundred motorized infantrymen arrived in Heiligenstadt in late May and a motorized column of several armored vehicles was sent to Bennackenstein. New Soviet details were seen in Uder, Leinrofelde-Aronshausen, Siemerode, Guenterode, Teistungen, Ecklingerode and Zwinge. Volkspolizei reinforcements or new details were observed in Teistungen, Neuendorf, Ecklingerode, Juetzenbach, Guenterode, Freienhagen and Streitholz. The Volkspolizei details in Hohengandern and Kirchgandern were relieved by new units from Sangerhausen. The construction of low wooden buildings to quarter an estimated 300 police started in Rustenfelde. (3)
4. [redacted] during the first half of June, several hundred Soviet soldiers were processed through Jernigerode. They were allegedly sent to villages situated along the zonal border. About 70 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, who were 18 to 20 years old, were quartered in the Altes Forsthaus in Jernigerode. (3)
5. In mid-June 1952, [redacted] Soviet sentries were on duty inside the 500-meter stripe along the zonal border near Thuro. On 14 June, trucks [redacted] and [redacted] each carrying about 15 soldiers, were seen shuttling between Thuro-Horst and Roggendorf-Jadebusch. On 15 June, jeep [redacted] occupied by a Soviet major, a lieutenant and the leader of the border police detail was seen inspecting the border guard details who were committed in that area. Soviet soldiers stated that, beginning about one year ago, the border guard detail was furnished by a rifle regiment, stationed in the Adolf-Hitler Kaserne in Schwerin. The detail which consisted of 2 officers and 40 soldiers was quartered in tents west of Thuro/Horst during the summer season while, in wintertime, it was quartered in permanent quarters in the town. (3)

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6. On 24 June 1952, [redacted] the Volkspolizei personnel would be withdrawn from the 500-meter stripe along the zonal border and that this stripe would be guarded by Russians. [redacted] the Volkspolizei personnel in the zone behind the 500-meter stripe would be reinforced. Beginning 22 June, Eimerstaedt, Hillmuthshausen, Streufdorf, Lössenhausen and Eishausen were allegedly occupied by Russians. (4)

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7. On 24 June 1952, [redacted] the Soviet border guard personnel was committed on the 500-meter border stripe in Becklenburg. Soviet double sentries were allegedly posted inside that stripe in such a manner that they could see each other. The Volkspolizei details on duty in the 6-kilometer border zone were reinforced. (4)

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[redacted] Comments.

- (1) The withdrawal of personnel from police precincts for temporary commitment on the zonal border appears possible, although the figures mentioned are undoubtedly overestimated. This extensive withdrawal of personnel from police precincts is unlikely, as the remaining personnel would be unable to perform general police duties.
- (2) The commitment of guard battalions from the VPs in the Laender is believed only a temporary measure, as a permanent commitment on the zonal border would require that the border guard battalions would be placed under the control of, or be transferred into, the border police.
- (3) It is known that units of the Third Shock Army and the Eighth Gds Army are committed on border guard duty along the zonal border. A Kommando headquarters and a guard detail of the border police totaling 43 police are stationed in Thuro-Horst in addition to the Soviet detail stationed there. The motor vehicle numbers reported in paragraph 5 belong to the 8th Gds Litz Rifle Div. It is possible that the Soviet border guard details were reinforced in conjunction with the intensified border control.
- (4) Soviet troops may have been committed on border guard duty because the border police was considered not reliable enough to perform these duties.

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